

XXXVIII.—On an unnamed Species of Owl from South Africa. By W. R. OGILVIE-GRANT.

THE late Carlo, Freiherr von Erlanger, very properly separated the northern form of *Scops leucotis* (which ranges from Senegal to Abyssinia and Somaliland) from the southern form met with in South Africa; but in naming the former *Asio leucotis nigrovertex* (cf. J. f. O. 1904, p. 233, pl. xix.) he overlooked the fact that he was renaming the typical form, which was described and figured by Temminck from Senegal [cf. Pl. Col. ii. pl. 25 (no. 16) (1824)]. Temminck's figure clearly shews the narrow barring of the quills and tail-feathers characteristic of the northern bird at all ages; but the black patch on the crown is not precisely mentioned, which possibly indicates that the bird described was not quite adult.

The two allied species should therefore stand as follows:—

SCOPS LEUCOTIS.

*Strix leucotis* Temm. Pl. Col. ii. pl. 25 (no. 16) (1824).

*Asio leucotis nigrovertex* Erl. J. f. O. 1904, p. 233, pl. xix. (upper figure).

The British Museum contains fifteen examples of this species from the following localities:—

River Gambia; Bathurst; Ilorin; Abeokuta; White Nile; Somaliland.

SCOPS ERLANGERI, NOM. NOV.

*Asio leucotis leucotis* Erl. J. f. O. 1904, p. 233, pl. xix. (lower figure).

*Asio leucotis* W. L. Slater, B. S. Afr. iii. p. 243 (1903).

The southern form is represented in the British Museum by nineteen specimens from the following localities:—

Nyasaland; Tete, Zambesi R.; Mashonaland; Makalaka Country; Bamangwato; Transvaal; Durban; Damaraland.

This species differs from the typical *S. leucotis* in having the dark bars on the primary-quills and tail-feathers much wider and less numerous, and in lacking the uniform black patch on the crown, all the feathers of that part, even in the darkest specimen, being mottled with black and white.